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August 31, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrators of Habilitation Centers for the Intellectually Disabled or Persons with Related Conditions and Hospitals

From: Gwen C. Thompson
Acting Director, Division of Health Licensing

Subject: Conditions that will allow a provider-wide partial exception to the requirements of Regulation 61-13, Standards for Licensing Habilitation Centers for the Intellectually Disabled or Persons Related Conditions Sections. C.(2)(a) and Regulation 61-16, Standards for Licensing Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries, Section 404.1

NOTE: This memorandum replaces the memorandum dated May 20, 1996. Amendments were made to comply with Act No. 47 of 2011 and to reflect regulation revisions.

Standards outlined in Regulation 61-13, Section C.(2)(a) and Regulation 61-16, Section 404.1, require that facility policies and procedures be reviewed at least annually. During inspections we have routinely checked for documentation which showed that this was done.

In the interest of establishing reasonable standards which do not compromise the health and welfare of residents/patients living in or receiving care in habilitation centers for the intellectually disabled and hospitals, we have determined that an alternative standard will be allowed.

All habilitation centers for the intellectually disabled and hospitals, must meet either the standards outlined in their respective, licensing standard, OR, as an alternative:

Procedures shall be revised as required in order to reflect actual facility practice. Additionally, facilities shall establish a time frame for overall review of all procedures. This time frame shall be documented in facility procedure and overall reviews shall be documented.

Facility staff shall work together with the appropriate governing body, management, medical staff and clinical and managerial leaders in developing, reviewing, and procedures as needed. This exception does not change any other standards not specifically addressed in this letter.

The standards in Regulation 61-13, Section C.(2)(a) and Regulation 61-16, Section 404.1, will be enforced during inspections, as required either by the regulation to the provider- wide exception. This exception applies to any habilitation center or hospital licensed by the Department. It relates solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, you may call (803) 545-4370.

GCT/rms